

Dear Senator Mae Flexer (Co-Chair), Representative Dan Fox (Co-Chair), Senator Rob Sampson (Ranking Member), Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco (Ranking Member) and esteemed members of the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee:

My name is Harold Jordan, I am a voter from Cheshire. I have been a Connecticut resident all my life. I urge the Legislature to pass HB 6578 regarding **automatic voter registration** and SB 1017 to **expand voting rights**. I understand the DMV presently processes automatic voter registration, but I think it would be more efficient and effective to also give that capability to any other state agency that interacts with the public. This activity should go a long way toward refreshing local voter lists, which in turn should streamline the voting process by reducing those limited errors that occur and speeding up voter throughput on election day.

As I understand SB 1017, it would restore voting rights to parolees and help make permanent the expanded use of no-excuse absentee ballots that were used so successfully in 2020 in great volumes. I know there are a handful of recalcitrants out there bemoaning how “fraudulent” mail-in balloting was, but no evidence has been offered to support any such (specious) claims. As for parolees, if they’ve rehabilitated themselves enough to regain their freedom, then shouldn’t they be trusted enough to more completely return to society by exercising the same basic constitutional right as all other “free men”? Consider it part of the ongoing rehabilitation process. Please move these bills forward. Connecticut seems to be stuck in the colonial era with regard to a number of governance issues, while other states in our region have successfully progressed with the changing times. If this state could “get with the program” as the saying goes, we could become a more attractive place for folks, and businesses, to settle in. And STAY in! Thanks for listening.

Harold Jordan

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